

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) An apparatus for generating a multi-component compound, in particular for dental purposes, comprising:
  - at least two cartridges (3), each cartridge (3) adapted for containing a component (4) of the multi-component compound and having a plunger (2) adapted for pressing out its component (4) from the cartridge (3); and
  - a driving device for said plungers (2) in which the driving speed is adjustable, wherein the driving device comprises a stepping motor (1), and a detector associated with the stepping motor for detecting at least one of
    - a) the steps of the stepping motor and
    - b) the load on the stepping motor.
2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the detector detects the status of load by the step frequency of the stepping motor (1).
3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1-~~or 2~~, wherein the detector detects the increase of load by a change or loss of driving steps of the stepping motor (1).
4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~anyone of the preceding claim~~[[s]] 1, wherein the driving device is adapted to drive the stepping motor (1) at a predetermined constant speed.
5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~anyone of the preceding claim~~[[s]] 1, wherein the driving device is adapted to drive the stepping motor (1) at different predetermined essentially constant speeds for one or different components and compounds.
6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~anyone of the preceding claim~~[[s]] 1, wherein a predetermined speed of the stepping motor (1) is essentially constant when the stepping motor (1) is under load and at a higher speed in the absence of load.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~anyone of the preceding claim~~[[s]] 1, wherein the stepping motor (1) is able to drive the plungers (2) at low speed with high torque and at higher speeds.
8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~anyone of the preceding claim~~[[s]] 1, wherein an output shaft (7) of the stepping motor (1) is connected directly, or via a belt; or via wheels and/or gear wheels and/or toothed chains and/or toothed belts, to each device (8) for moving the plunger (2).
9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~anyone of the preceding claim~~[[s]] 1, wherein the driving device is adapted to monitor the position of the plungers (2).
10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~anyone of the preceding claim~~[[s]] 1, wherein the driving device is adapted to monitor the position of the plungers (2) by monitoring the driving steps of the stepping motor (1).
11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~anyone of the preceding claim~~[[s]] 1, wherein the driving device is adapted to detect and monitor an empty position of a plunger (2) when said respective cartridge (3) is empty.
12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~anyone of the preceding claim~~[[s]] 1, wherein the driving device is adapted to detect when the plungers (2) ~~get into contact with the~~ components (4) after inserting the cartridges (3).
13. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a multi-component compound, in particular for dental purposes ~~and particularly with an apparatus according to anyone of the preceding claims~~, by pressing out and mixing its components (4) from at least two cartridges (3) by driving plungers (2) inside the cartridges (3) by means of a driving device in which the driving speed is adjustable, wherein a stepping motor (1) for driving the plungers (2) is provided.
14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, comprising the steps that:
- the plungers (2) are advanced with high speed into an initial position in which they get in contact with the components (4);
  - the plungers (2) are retracted with high speed for a predetermined relief distance;

- the plungers (2) are advanced with high speed either for a predetermined bias distance greater than the relief distance, or until the components (4) begin flowing out of the cartridges (3) or into the mixer (6);
- the plungers (2) are driven with low speed for pressing out the components (4) from the cartridges (3).

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~13~~ or 14, comprising the steps that:

- during driving the plungers (2) with low speed for pressing out the components (4) from the cartridges (3), the pressing force or load of the stepping motor (1) is monitored and compared with a predetermined upper limit;
- if the upper limit is reached or exceeded, the stepping motor (1) is stopped or adjusted to a lower speed.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for generating a multi-component compound, in particular for dental purposes, with an apparatus according to ~~anyone of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] ~~1-12~~ further comprising a mixer (6).

17. (Cancelled) Claim cancelled in current amendment.